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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGOV RS GG MARR PBTS

SUBJECT: MOD ON AID DELIVERIES INTO SECURITY ZONES IN  
GEORGIA

¶1. (U) On September 16, the Russian MOD delivered to Embassy  
Moscow's Defense Attaché Office a response to U.S. Note 570,  
dated August 27, 2008, on the security zones in Georgia,  
South Ossetia, and Abkhazia that are controlled by Russian  
peacekeeping forces. The MOD reiterates that travel to the  
"security zones" requires prior notification and permission.  
We faxed English and Russian versions of the note to EUR/RUS.  
Below is the MOD's English translation of the Russian note.

¶2. (U) Begin Text:

FOREIGN LIAISON DIRECTORATE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
Moscow, Russia

Dated 16 September 2008  
Note # 3672

Response to Note 570 dated the 27th of August 2008

The Foreign Liaison Directorate of the Russian Federation  
Ministry of Defense presents its compliments to the Defense  
Attaché Office of the United States Embassy to the Russian  
Federation and has the honor to report that the Russian  
peacekeeping forces' rules of engagement, in their areas of  
operation (security zones) on the territory of Georgia,  
Abkhazia, and South Ossetia, are governed by current standard  
international legal basis for the reconciliation of the  
Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian armed conflicts.  
The layout and size of the aforementioned zones were  
determined in strict accordance with agreements between the  
conflicting parties, and thus far have not changed.

Entry into Russian peacekeeping forces' areas of operation to  
deliver humanitarian aid is granted at the zone commander's  
discretion based on requests, which must be submitted no  
later than 24 hours before the intended trip. The request  
will contain: the goal of the trip, the route, the number of  
vehicles and their plate numbers, the number of people and  
their information, the type and amount of cargo, and the  
number and serial numbers of the escort's weapons.

Russian peacekeeping troops have the right to use armed force  
in the following instances:

-for the purpose of ensuring their security and safety  
against any threat to their life and well-being, service  
members retain the irrevocable right to self defense.

-in the event of an attempt to forcefully prevent them from  
carrying out their assigned tasks.

-to repel overt armed assaults.

-to protect the civilians against violent threats to their  
lives or well-being.

The Foreign Liaison Directorate of the Russian Ministry of  
Defense avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the

Defense Attache Office assurances of its highest consideration.

End Text.

BEYRLE